

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.
SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 4, 1845.
William Buckmaster, Editor.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.
Friends and Patrons, a large number of you have now travelled on with us upwards of three years, since we set the Ploughman in motion. Many of you jumped from our old car at once when you perceived that the Conductor had quitted it in disgust, and we trust, from your continuance in our company, that you have found our conversation agreeable and instructive.

To those who have favored us with communications on the subject of Agriculture we feel under particular obligation, and we hope for a continuance of their favors.
Our paper circulates extensively throughout the New England States, and is designed especially for this region. Here was its Conductor born, and here bred to labor, on a farm. This has ever been his favorite, though not his sole pursuit. This his first love.

From the extensive patronage of the Ploughman, and the flattering notices that are taken of it in various sections of the Union, we are inclined to think the public mind has materially changed, in half a dozen years, in regard to the value of printed facts and opinions on the important subject of Agriculture.

As this is a season to commence the trial of a paper, we submit it to the good sense of our subscribers to determine, whether they can befriend their acquaintances more, as to little cost, than by advising them to subscribe for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

Wisdom at Head Quarters.

It is to be presumed that the great mass of our people are desirous of placing at the head of affairs the most able and the most wise; but from some cause or other we very often fail to accomplish our purpose. What is every one's business is nobody's, and in selecting men for the highest stations we are quite as likely to promote the forward and the noisy as men of candor and ability.

The country is divided into two large political parties, as all free countries ever have been, and ever will be; and as each party is persuaded of the superiority of its own merits over the pretensions of its opponents, the first step taken is to gain ascendancy in numerical power. This is done by promoting those who are most active and bitter against the opponents of what are denominated "good principles."

Notice is given that a Caucus is to be held on a certain day in a wine town, and all the little towns are invited to send delegates to the central Caucus. There each caucuser is held to appoint delegates; half a dozen caucusers assemble and choose one of their number to attend at the third town; he carries with him a certificate, from the presiding officer, of his election as a delegate, and he is received and admitted. A nomination there made is binding on the party, and we betide the politician who dares to disobey.

Could not some better mode of choosing these primary delegates be adopted? As their nominees must be supported at all hazards, it seems improper to have nominations made in a hushed way by a few stragglers who may happen to meet there. Delegates to conventions might be chosen openly in legal town meetings—the leading candidates on either side to be certified by the clerk to be the delegates of each party. Would not the chance be thus greater of securing proper nominations for State and for United States offices?

We have been led to this inquiry by reading the proceedings of Congress for the last week. The crude fanaticism in financing which has occasional utterance there, leads boys of fourteen to inquire of parents what kinds of business certain members have been bred to.

On the Bill to reduce and graduate the price of public lands, &c., a number of members spoke. The Journal of Commerce reports, "It was argued in favor of the bill that agriculture was burdened with the support of manufactures, with the expenses for the protection of commerce, with the maintenance of an army and a navy—that this bill would increase the number of farmers, and of course of consumers of imports, &c., &c." To remedy the evil of over production of cotton, rice, corn, &c., we are advised to reduce the price of the public lands and increase the number of producers! When farmers find prices so low that they cannot afford to hire labor, the public lands are to be almost given away to remedy the evil of low prices!

After this a motion was made before three o'clock, to adjourn over till Monday, "it being a dismal spell of weather." This was the only cause assigned, and the House adjourned! A set of farmers, mechanics, or merchants, would hardly think that a sufficient cause for quitting in-door labor.

Even the great head of the government, the Commander-in-Chief, makes some statements that look rather green for December. In his Message he congratulates the country on the improvement which the taken place in the exchange. He says "the rates of exchange, between the different parts of the Union, are now reduced to little more than the expense of transporting specie from place to place, and the risk incident to the operation." We humbly ask whether the rates of exchange are now one tenth part as much as the cost of transporting specie would be? How can the rates of exchange ever exceed the cost of transmitting specie? When balances in specie are actually transmitted, the whole business of "exchange" is accomplished—there can be no more cost.

The Commander further displays about the same quantity of knowledge of finance when he treats of the banks which he has made the depositories of the surplus revenue. He learns that these banks presume to discount more largely on account of the government funds placed in their vaults; and he forbids this under the penalty of a withdrawal of the same funds from their possession! Just as if those funds could be withdrawn by bank if such bank was not allowed to discount more largely in consequence of the deposit! If he did not intend the banks should make any use whatever of the money, how could he punish them by withdrawing it? Did he expect to pay them a per centage for keeping the funds in their banks?

We invite both the political parties to look to this matter; and we venture to offer a hint that any party will be more likely to succeed by selecting business men to legislate, than by choosing such as make party politics a trade. When a majority of your legislators are men whose nerves will not admit of their holding a session "when there is a dull spell of weather," it is time to look about and devise some mode of selection by which members will give a better reason for an early adjournment than a cloudy sky.

PRESERVATION OF THE TEETH. A. B. Child, M. D., has sent us a very pretty little book on this subject, and from inspecting it we think it worth reading. Wm. White and H. P. Lewis are the publishers.

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We can see no very good reason for the past apathy of the State officers in regard to this insurrection. The fever has been spreading for many weeks, yet nothing effectual has been done to check the progress of the infection. If there are not now more right heads in the state than wrong ones the case will become still worse by delay. New York may be obliged to send to Rhode Island for assistance when a majority of her people has assumed the Indian garb and mode of government. Some citizens of New York kindly offered to assist Rhode in their late troubles, and it will be no more than fair if she now volunteers to reciprocate the favor. It is hoped, however, that New York is strong enough to stand alone.

SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE have called on us and reminded us that at the last meeting of the farmers in the Statehouse, last winter it was agreed to adjourn to the first Tuesday of the present Session.
A meeting will accordingly be held on Tuesday next at the Representatives' Hall, at seven o'clock P. M. It is presumed that some of the members have obtained leave for the use of the Hall.

HATS, CAPS, FURS AND MUFFS. A great variety of these articles may be found at No. 173 Washington St., where we saw excellent specimens of New Year's day. Mr. Shute has had much experience in the business and we commend his store to ladies and gentlemen in want of such articles at fair prices.

THE VERY LONGEST RAILROAD. Punch says a company has been formed to lay down a railroad from Dan to Beersheba; the stock is above par. If another is contemplated from Alpha to Omega.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS. We are under obligations to the Hon. D. P. King, of the second Congressional District, for a copy of a memorial of the people of Florida, for admission into the Union.

SUBSCRIBERS who have sent in money to this office during the present week, not finding their bills receipted will receive them next week in their paper.

THE STEAMER ACADIA left East Boston on Wednesday for Halifax and Liverpool, with the usual mails and 67 passengers.

THE AMERICAN ALMANAC and Repository of Useful Knowledge for 1845.—Boston, James Munroe & Co. pp. 329—12mo.

This is edited by Mr. F. Bowen and the astronomical calculations are made by Mr. Benj. Pierce, Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University. A complete account is given of the commerce of the country, from official documents; the revenue and expenditures of the Union are shown in comparative tables; and particulars respecting every department of the general government, the judiciary, army, navy, post office, public lands, &c., are given in the most condensed form. Meteorological tables from all parts of the country are inserted, giving a comparative view of the climate and weather in the U. S. The history of Congressional legislation, contained in it, furnishes much information in a condensed form that cannot well be found elsewhere. It has now reached the sixteenth volume and is of high authority for reference. Gentlemen wanting the best work of the kind in the country will

Supreme Court, Monday. **Doct. nullifying a marriage.** Lawrence Kelly, petitioner, vs. Margaret Kelly. The petitioner married the said Margaret, under the name of Gregory, supposing her to be the single woman, in 1838. Sometime since, while she was a person, she learned by saying "You are not my wife," that she was married to a man named Kelly. This was the first intimation that Kelly had received that he had ever been married before. He had been twice married in damages for adultery, and the first time, he made and in some further trouble of the kind, he made inquiries, which resulted in the discovery, that in 1822 he was married to Brinn, in Portland, and that she was still alive. Upon procuring this evidence, he filed a petition to have his marriage declared a nullity. The testimony was satisfactory, and Chief Justice Shaw granted a decree accordingly. Helet and Mary for petitioners. **C. C. PLEAS—CAMBRIDGE.** **Hasty damages for slander.** Margaret K. Russell, a nurse, vs. Joseph O. Russell, her neighbor. An action on the case against the defendant for uttering slanderous words, charging the plaintiff with the crime of fornication. The defendant filed a plea of denial, but also a specification of damages—that he had said and touching the character of the plaintiff for chastity and virtue was true. The case was submitted to the jury in a lucid and able charge by his honor Judge Washburn. The jury after being out half an hour, returned into court a verdict for the plaintiff, assessing her damages at the sum of eighteen hundred dollars. The verdict shows that the female character is held in as much esteem by the intelligent juries of Middlesex, and that womanly modesty is not a very cheap acquisition. Butrick and Marrett for the plaintiff. T. Willey Esq. for the defendant. [Post.]

THE POPULAR VOTE FOR PRESIDENT. We have been waiting some time to obtain the official accounts of the votes from each State in the Union, but they are not all yet returned. We have heard of only a few running yet. From that State we have the majority given for Mr. Polk. The votes from the other States are—

	Clav.	Polk.	Birney.
Maryland	35,948	32,676	5
Rhode Island	7,322	4,846	5
New Jersey	161,203	167,335	3,181
New Hampshire	17,866	17,169	4,161
Ohio	155,037	149,117	8,050
New York	222,102	116,953	1,165
Massachusetts	66,572	52,983	10,580
Vermont	26,778	18,949	3,970
North Carolina	43,232	39,257	2,975
Tennessee	1,406	2,000	2,000
Virginia	43,677	49,570	2,000
Connecticut	32,828	29,539	1,943
Maine	34,672	46,103	4,563
Georgia	42,102	44,105	2,000
Alabama	20,100	35,491	2,000
Mississippi	19,316	25,281	2,000
Louisiana	22,177	30,917	2,000
Kentucky	61,279	82,096	2,000
Indiana	67,867	70,181	2,106
Illinois	128,455	128,455	2,000
Michigan	24,237	27,703	8,632
Wisconsin	30,634	41,369	2,000
Minnesota	3,000	3,000	2,000
California (by Legislature)	1,290,063	1,328,837	61,180
Polk over Clay, ex. vice S. C.	38,472		

Whole number of votes thus far, 2,679,732, which will be increased to 2,700,000 by the vote of Arkansas and the deficient counties in Mississippi. In 1840, the number of votes was a fraction over 2,400,000. The abolition vote will fully equal Polk's majority, if not including the vote of South Carolina, 20,000, for South Carolina.

Harrison's majority in 1840 was 145,900, less the vote of South Carolina, 20,000, was 125,900. Van Buren's majority in 1836, was 25,413, less the vote of South Carolina.

In the debate a few days since, on the proposition to abolish the vote on railroad iron, Mr. Foster of Pennsylvania, stated that the manufacture of that article had just commenced in this country; that a single establishment in the State of New York, had produced more than 100,000 tons of iron, and that the demand was now in a situation to manufacture from 80 to 100 tons of railroad iron per week. In these words was embarked a capital of nearly \$200,000, which furnished daily employment to over 1200 hands. In one of the middle counties of the State he knew of another which was now prepared to contract to deliver 100,000 tons of iron, and he also stated that for ten years previous to 1841, during which time railroad iron was free of all duty, and foreigners had the undisputed control of the market, the price of the article had risen for it than its own price under a duty of \$25 per ton. He believed that it could now be furnished in Pennsylvania as low as \$30 per ton. Directors, Lynn, Stages, Chelms, and Malden, which broke out in the Starch Factory on the Tremont road, Roxbury, Sunday evening, which broke out in the building, and several tons of starch, building and stock insured.

The anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims was celebrated on the 23d, by the sons of New England and others, in the evening, with great spirit and devotion. At the church, which was densely crowded, Rev Dr Beecher made an opening prayer, and addresses were delivered by Rev Mr Perkins and Prof. Seaborn.

Mr. Cushman had not left New York on Tuesday night. It was understood that his intention was to proceed to Washington immediately. Mr. Fletcher Webster, it is said, may be expected to arrive soon. He was to proceed from China to England overland.

The citizens of Lowell have voted to instruct their representatives in the legislature to use their influence to obtain a change in the proposed railroad from Lowell to Andover—1833 to 1830.

We learn from the American Agriculturist, that agents of several French and English houses are now in this country, examining the clips of the finest sheep, with a view of purchasing them up for the benefit of the French and English wool.

The Boston and Worcester Railroad Company has reduced the fare between Boston and Worcester to \$1.25. It has heretofore been \$1.50.

The Portland Advertiser states that 174 new buildings have been erected in that city during the year past. The majority of these are dwelling houses, some of which are of the most elegant description.

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